**'Oil sick from the Persian Gulf"**

425. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the possibility of oil sick from Persian Gulf reaching the West and South West coast of India;

(b) if so, what havoc it will cause to the marine ecology of the country; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) As per the assessment made by the Government, the probability of oil slick from Persian Gulf reaching the West and South West Coast of India is small. Continuous monitoring of the movement of oil slick is being done by the Department of Space using Remote Sensing Satellite. The marine ecology of the country is being monitored. No adverse effect has been detected.

426. [*Transferred to the 7th March, 1991*]

**Wage revision in Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. Visakhapatnam**

427. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for wage revision of workmen of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, has been finalised and necessary funds made available;

(b) if so, by when the actual payment is likely to be made to the workmen; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (c) The proposal for wage revision of workmen of Hindustan Shipyard Limited has been finalised in consultation with concerned Government agencies. Hindustan Shipyard Limited has accumulated losses of approximately Rs. 273.20 crores as on 31-12-1990. The Shipyard is currently not in a position to raise sufficient internal resources even to pay wages at current rates. It is, therefore, not possible to make any commitment as to the date by which the actual payment is likely to be made to the workmen in accordance with the new wage rates.

**"National social forestry programme"**

428. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item entitled: "Forestry project design faulty: IBRD" in daily Economic Times, New Delhi, dated 6th February, 1991, wherein it has been mentioned that the social benefits of the national social forestry programme currently being implemented in several states have been significant only in the State of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the World Bank study has opined that the major gain out of the project has been building in terms of capability in training, monitoring, evaluation and micro planning of programmes in States, such as Himachal Pradesh;

(c) what steps have been taken by National Wastelands Development Board to replicate the success of the programme observed in other States;

(d) whether it is a fact that one of the weaknesses of the programme referred to in the Study has been non-involvement of voluntary agencies; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken to involve appropriate voluntary agencies in the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA

GANDHI): (a) and (b) The reference in the news item in question is to the Mid-Term Review of the National Social Forestry Project (NSFP) being implemented in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh (H.P.). The findings of the report cover the experience gained in implementing the social forestry projects in all the four States and not only in H. P. The news item has not mentioned that the social benefits of the NSFP have been significant only in H.P. However, the Mid-term Review has on an overall basis mentioned, *inter alia*, that although insufficient, incremental gains have been made in strengthening the technical and managerial capacity of the Forest Departments and private farmers to carry out the social forestry planting programmes and also that, while training, monitoring, evaluation and microplanning have shown noteworthy progress, the requisite extension, site suitability planning, policy adjustments and research have legged behind.

(c) The social forestry projects covered by the NSFP as well as other externally-aided social forestry projects, are implemented by the State Govts. The National Wastelands Development Board, however, monitors the implementation of the projects on the basis of periodical reports obtained from the State Govts. as also the periodical reviews prepared by the donor agencies. Consultations are held with the State Govts, concerned with a view to strengthen the implementation of the projects on the basis of the information and findings of such reports.

(d) and (e) The Mid-Term Review has, *inter alia*, mentioned that the involvement of the voluntary agencies in the National Social Forestry Programme has been inadequate. Since then, the involvement of voluntary agencies in programmes of social forestry has increased. In order to further involve the people in the protection and development of forest lands on the basis of giving them a share in the surfruct from such lands, detailed guidelines were issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 1st June, 1990. A copy of the guidelines is Annexed.

*Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests*

No. 6-21/89-F.P.

Government of India

Ministry of Environment and Forests

Department of Environment, Forests and Wildlife.

Paryavaran Bhavan, C.G.O.

Complex, B-Block, Lodi Road,
New Delhi.

Dated: 1st June, 1990.

To

The Forest Secretaries

(All States/UTs)

Subject: Involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies for regeneration of degraded forest lands.

Sir,

The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages people's involvement in the development and protection of forests. The requirements of fuelwood, fodder and small timber such as house-building material, of the tribals and other villagers living in and near the forests, are to be treated as first charge on forest produce. The Policy document envisages it as one of the essentials of forest management that the forest communities should motivated to identify themselves with the development and protection of forests from which they derive benefits.

2. In a D.O. letter No. 1|1|88-TMA dated 13th January, 1989 to the Chief Secretary of your State, the need for working out the modalities for giving to the village communities, living close to the forest land, usufructory benefits to ensure their participation in the afforestation programme, was emphasised by Shri K. P. Geethakrishnan, the then Secretary (Environment and Forests).

3. Committed voluntary agencies/NGOs, with proven track record, may prove particularly well suited for motivating and organising village communities for protection, afforestation and development off degraded forest land, especially in the vicinity of habitations. The State Forest Departments/Social Forestry Organisations

ought to take full advantage of their expertise and experience in this respect for building up meaningful people's participation in protection and development of degraded forest lands. The voluntary agencies/NGOs may be associated as interface between State Forest Departments and the local village communities for revival, restoration and development of degraded forests in the manner suggested below:

(i) The programme should be implemented under an arrangement between the Voluntary Agency/NGO, the village community (beneficiaries) and the State Forest Department.

(ii) No ownership or lease rights over the forest land should be given to the beneficiaries or to the Voluntary Agency/NGO. Nor should the forest land be assigned in contravention of the provisions contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

(iii) The beneficiaries should be entitled to a share in usufructs to the extent and subject to the conditions prescribed by the State Government in this behalf. The Voluntary Agency/NGO should not be entitled to usufructory benefits.

(iv) Access to forest land and usufructory benefits should be only to the beneficiaries who get organised into a village institution, specifically for forest regeneration and protection. This could be of the village, with no restriction the Panchayat or the Cooperative on membership. It could also be a Village Forest Committee. In no case should any access or tree pattas be given to individuals.

(v) The beneficiaries should be given usufructs like grasses, lops and tops of branches, and minor forest produce. It they successfully the forests, they may be given a portion of the proceeds from the sale of trees when they nature. (The Government of West Bengal has issued orders to give 25 per cent of the sale proceeds to the Village Forest Protection Committees. Similar norms may be adopted by other States).

(vi) Areas to be selected for the programmes should be free from the claims (including existing rights, privileges, concessions) of any person who is not a beneficiary under the scheme. Alternatively, for a given site the selection of beneficiaries should be done in such a way that any one who has a claim to any forest produce from the selected site is not left out without being given full opportunity of joining.

(vii) The selected site should be worked in accordance with a Working Scheme, dully approved by the State Government. Such scheme may remain in operation for a period of 10 years and revised renewed after that. The Working Scheme should be prepared in consultation with the beneficiaries. Apart from protection of the site, the said Scheme may prescribe requisite operations, eg. inducement to natural regeneration of existing root stock, seeding, gap filling, and wherever necessary, intensive planting, soid-moisture conservation measures etc. The Working Scheme should also prescribe other operations eg. fire-protection, maintenance of boundaries, weeding, tending, cleaning, thinning etc.

(viii) For raising nurseries, preparing land for planting and protecting the trees after planting, the beneficiaries should be paid by the Forest Department from the funds under the social forestry programme. However, the village community may obtain funds from other Government agencies and sources for undertaking these activities.

(ix) It should be ensured that there is no grazing at all in the forest land

protected by the village community. Permission to cut and carry grass free of cost should be given so that stall feeding is promoted.

(x) No agriculture should be permitted on the forest land.

(xi) Along with trees for fuel, fodder and timber, the village community may be premited to plant such fruit trees as would fit in with the overall scheme of afforestation, such as aonla, Imli, mango, mahua etc. as well as shrubs, legumes and grasses which would meet local needs, help soil and water conservation, and enrich the degraded soils/land. Even indigenous medicinal plants may be grown according to the requirement and preference of beneficiaries.

(xii) Cutting of trees should not be permitted before they are ripe for harvesting. The forest department also should not cut the trees on the forest land being protected by the village communities except in the manner prescribed in the Working Scheme. In case of emergency needs, the village communities should be taken into confidence.

(xiii) The benefit of people's participation should go to the village communities and not to commercial or other interests which may try to derive benefit in their names. The selection of beneficiaries should therefore, be done from only those families which are willing to participate through their personal efforts.

(xiv) The Forest Department should closely supervise the works. If the beneficiaries and/or the Voluntary /NGO fail or neglect to protect the area from grazing, encroachment or do not perform the operations prescribed in the Working Scheme in a satisfactory manner, the usefructory benefits should be with drawn without paying compensation to anyone for any work that might have been done prior to it. Suitable provisions in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for thus purpose should be incorporated.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
(Mahesh Prasad)

**Secretary to the Government of India. Recommendation by scope to disband the MTNL or merge with DOT**

429. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SCOPE has recently recommended that there should be no atempt to disband the MTNL and/or merge it with DOT, as this would be retrograde step; and

(b) whether the SCOPE (Standing Committee on Public Enterprises) spelt out that only an organisational structure such as MTNL, could satisfactorily deliver high technology consumer services while making a profit, and any other alternative may warrant Government's budgetary support?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) and (b) SCOPE might have made such suggestions to the High Level Committee set up by the Government to suggest restructuring of the Department of Telecom. Report of the Committee is awaited.

**ECO-System of the Gulf**

430. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports that eco-system of the Gulf is at an end that the shores have been irredeemably damaged due to the oil slick;